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#119

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of The Chief Signal Officer
APO 512

ADA 19.2.44
By Authority of the
Chief Signal Officer

RJD/jag
19 February 1944

Authority EO 13526
DECLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Interrogation Report

TO : The Chief Signal Officer, War Department, Washington, D.C.
Attn: Signal Security Agency

1. Reference is made to a letter of this Headquarters dated 9 February, 1944, which transmitted, among others, a copy of an interrogation report on Georg Trinder, formerly a member of the German signal intelligence agency, now held in the Middle East. Inclosed is one copy of the final report on the interrogation of this prisoner.

2. Your attention is invited to the fact that personnel of the German 621st Radio Intelligence Company, captured by Middle East forces in October, 1942, indicated under interrogation that operational control of the company was in the hands of the "Commander of Intercept Troops, South-East", located at Athens. Although the company itself was assigned to Panzer Armees Afrika. The "Commander of Intercept Troops, South-East" is obviously a standard variation in nomenclature for the interservice "Intercept Section, South East" referred to in the inclosed document.

3. The British translation of Geheime Funkhorch Abteilung as "Intercept Section, S.E." is highly inadequate. The term Abteilung may be translated as "section", but the fact that component elements of the unit were formally organized companies and that the commanding officer was a "Wing Commander" (Oberstleutnant) with a definite staff, indicates that the Abteilung was, or is, in fact, an actual and probably standardized battalion.

For the Chief Signal Officer:

Hamilton Jones, 15 Feb 44
for R. E. SCHUKRAFT,
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps

1 Incl:
Copy No. 2 of
"Second Report on Georg Trinder."

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I. Information on BRITISH and Allied Ciphers.

1. Further interrogation on points raised in TRINDER's notes has brought more accurate information to light regarding enemy success with RAF 4-figure cipher.

2. Source maintained that over the period FEBRUARY to Early Summer 1942 (NOT 1943 as stated in the preliminary report) the deciphering of 4-figure RAF cipher met with approximately 60% success. The daily depth of traffic averaged 400 to 500 messages.

3. During the summer 1942, GERMAN cryptographers formed the opinion that a change had been effected in the cipher book - a surmise which was only confirmed by about September 1942 (1942). As a direct result of this, 50% of the cryptintelligence staff were withdrawn from ATHENS to BERLIN in the same month.

4. No details of actual deciphering methods were obtained as TRINDER was only employed on the initial mechanical stages of traffic compilation. Intercept of 4-figure material was dealt with as follows:-

- (A) The message pad used for intercept is divided vertically into three columns and horizontally into blocks of five rows. Traffic is taken down vertically, filling in columns from left to right.
- (B) Raw material is sorted in the 4Z Dept (4-figure) and allotted a code number (e.g. 1204) signifying group, frequency, callsign etc.
- (C) Sections of five NCOs index the traffic of particular groups. For this purpose a book consisting of 100 pages is used, each page divided into rows numbered from 00 to 99. To index, for example, the cipher group "2593" - the code number mentioned in (B) is entered on Page 25 row 93.
- (D) On completion of the indexing stage, the books are passed to the cryptographers. Source could give no information on these higher stages as this work was done by officers. He had, however, seen a partially reconstructed vocabulary of 4-figure cipher.
- (E) When stages (C) and (D) are well advanced a quick recognition method is constructed based on a table with four rollers. By rotating the rollers so that the code number of the cipher appears at the top of the table - the most common figure groups of that particular cipher can be read off the rest of the rollers (See Appx "A").

II. Information on BRITISH and Allied Procedure.

5. Below is a list of frequencies which source stated had been intercepted at Intercept Section SOUTH EAST (Geh. Fu. H. Abt S.O.). Their present accuracy is not guaranteed.

2990	3595	4150
3050	3610	4310
3090	3680	4410
3110	3710	4490
3195	3860	4510
3290	3900	4575
3310	3990	4650
3360	4050	4710
3475	4075	4750 (4790)
3510		4810

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III. Organisation of Enemy Signal Intelligence in the BALKANS.

A. Outstations and Locations.

6. The intercept organisation companies (1 to 4) and 9 Coy 40 Air Force Signals Regt all form together Intercept Section SOUTH EAST. 9 Coy had no longer any connection with its parent regiment.

B. Intercept Policy.

7. 9 Coy had approximately 15 receivers of different types at its disposal. Each set was given at least one first-priority commitment and two to four second-priority tasks. The total coverage was therefore about 60 to 70 frequencies. This company was chiefly concerned with RT and DF (see para V).

2 Coy usually had 35 receivers in use for a task list of 80 to 90 frequencies.

Operators in all cases worked on a basis of three shifts per 24 hours.

IV. DF.

8. In Feb 1943 the DF compilation centre was withdrawn (presumably from LOUISA) to ATHENS.

9. No detailed information could be obtained on the six-masted DF mentioned in para IV C 16 of the Preliminary Report. From the general description given spacing between masts approximates to that of the more usual four-masted ADCOCK DFGL2.

V. Communications.

10. "Y" intercommunication links of the BALKAN organisation consists of four stars which correspond to the basic divisions of intercept cover (of Para IV.B.14 of Preliminary Report).

- (A) MEDITERRANEAN Star (H-Stern Mittelmeer)
- (B) SOUTH EAST Star (H-Stern S.O.)
- (C) Fighter Wing Star (Fliegerwarnstern)
- (D) DF Control Star (Peilkommandostern)

Source could give no information on A or B.

11. Appx "B" shows diagrammatically the communications between intercept sites and Fighter Command for transmission of warnings of Allied Air attacks. To a certain extent D (DF Control) network runs parallel with C - as both intercept and DF contribute complementary information for AA and Fighter defence.

VI. Personalities.

12. In Appx "C" will be found a list of the main personalities of the Intercept Section SOUTH EAST. TRINDER could not vouch for their accuracy at the present time as his information was now a year old.

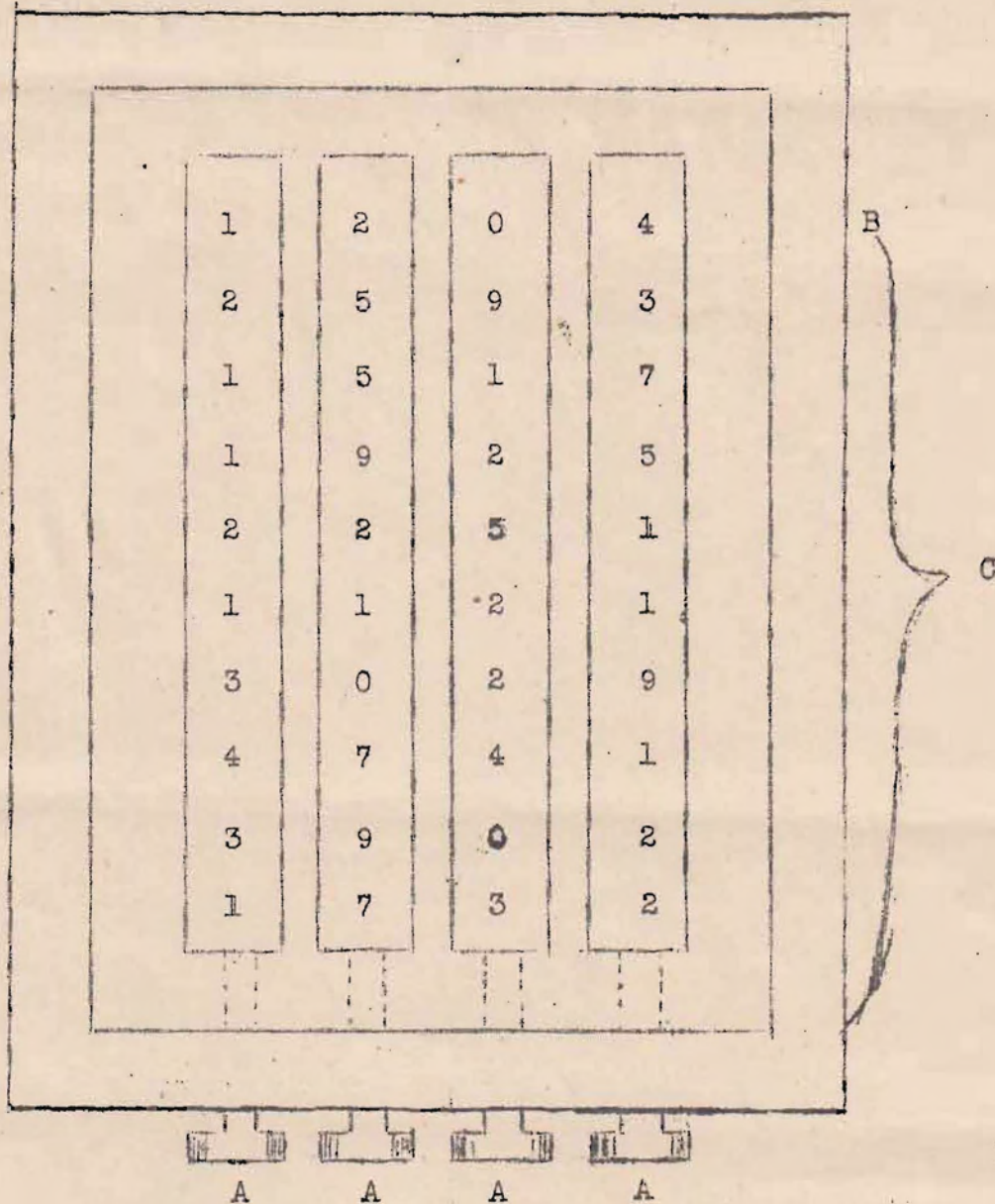
VII. General.

13. Operators engaged on intercept duties and Int NCOs are not accorded any special privileges (e.g. exemption from fatigues, parades etc) by virtue of their hours of work.

14. As far as source was aware personnel of the intercept service were not given any special security vetting - the only formality consisted of filling in numerous forms. All ranks were given frequent lectures on security and the need for secrecy in their work.

MIS
Feb 44
THI/REH

ROLLER RECOGNITION TABLE.

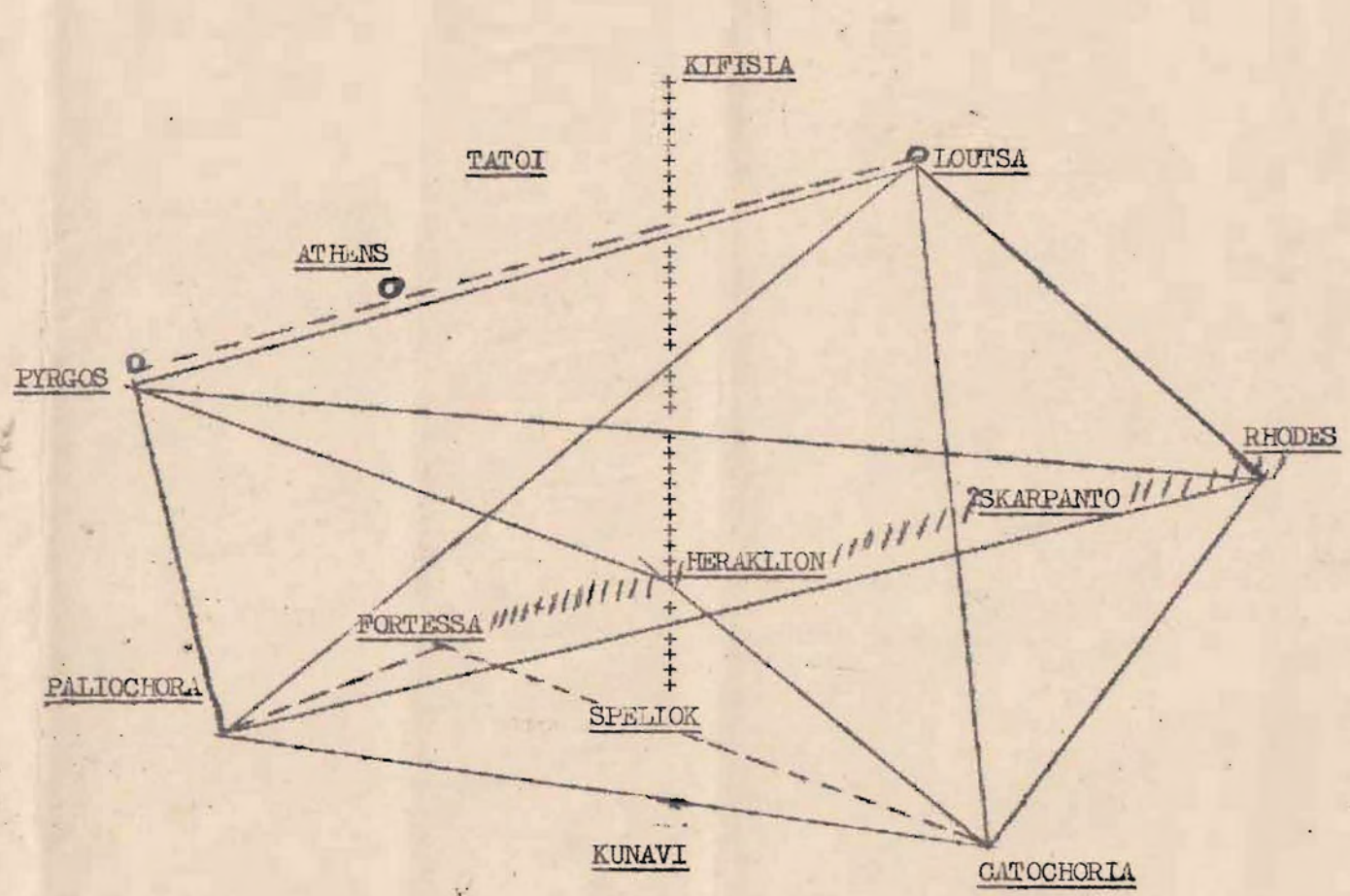


Method of working.

Rotate rollers by means of knobs (A) to make up code number of cipher at B. groups then appearing at C are most common groups.

WT Links of Fighterwing Network. (Fliegerwamstern)

APPENDIX B



- WT
- /////// LM
- Telepho
- +++++++ Link fr
Details
X Air C

Intercept Service Personalities.

Civilians with titles such as Reg Rat, Amtman, Sonderfuhrer, Inspektor - rank as officers.

A. AOC-in-C GERMAN Air Force. MARSTALL.

Former Department III (referat), now Dept V and General Cryptintelligence Centre.

Staff Traffic Analysis (T/A) Officers and Officials.

S/Ldr FRIEDRICHS (present head)
 F/Lt WEINEN
 F/Lt KOBISCH
 F/Lt REETZ
 Reg Rat VOEGELE
 Amtman LIEBSCHER
 Sonderfuhrer STEIDLE (formerly L Cpl in Intercept Section SE - specialist in TURKISH and ARABIC intercept)
 Baron v RICHTOFEN
 WO II RICHTER } Final WT I Dept.
 AC1 BOSCH }

B. Intercept Section SOUTH EAST HQ.

W/Cmdr BRUEHL - Former CO - at present commanding Intercept Section in S RUSSIA
 F/Lt FEICHTNER - present OC and Director
 F/O DUERR - Senior IO to ROME HVK (Horchverbindungs Kommando)
 P/O LOWSE -
 P/O BLIESKE - Now posted.

C. 1 Traffic Analysis Coy.

P/Os MAGER } Traffic analysis IOs.
 MALICEK }
 STANKOWSKI }
 PO TRECICK
 WOs I DEVAL
 HAVER DF compilation
 KOCH Meteo and cryptintelligence
 WOs II DUELLER Dept V T/A 4/L 4/F
 MANSKE " " " " "
 SCHMIDT 4/L 5/L 5/F
 SCHWARZ DF compilation
 BENDER
 Sjts BUDICH
 FIEGE
 GHRKE
 HOINS
 KRUBER Meteo 4/L 5/F
 LANG 4/L 4/F 5/F
 MEYER
 ROSSKAT Dept V T/A 4/L 4/F
 SCHLEPPPELMANN 4/F
 STRUNK
 EIGNER
 LACs KRABBE Meteo 4/7 4/L 5/F (now at 3/40)
 ROLSCHINGER
 THOMM

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D. 2 Intercept Coy @ LOUISA.

F/O	SEEGBRECHT	OC Coy
P/O	LUDWIG	
Oberinsp	HENNE	Technical Adviser to Y Sta SE
Insp	DUELLER	IO T/A
Wos II	RABIGA	
	SCHREBER	T/A
	ZIMMERLEIN	IC T/A 4/F 5/F
Sjts	HOFFMEYER	4/L 5/L
	SCHRENK	IC DF compilation
LtC	FOLGMANN	DM (posted to 9/40).

E. 3 Intercept Coy.

Mt PARNIS
KIFISIA - X Air Corps.

F/O	WESSEL	OC Coy
P/O	BAEGER	
Wos II	RAAB	Final T/A stages
	STOCKMANN	" " "

Main Int work at KIFISIA is now done by women.

F. 4 Coy.

Officer chosen to be OC was F/O UNTERSTAB.

G. 9 Coy 40 Air Force Signals Regt.

F/O	SCHMIDT	OC Coy
P/Os	FRICKE	LO to X Air Corps KIFISIA
	KOCH	LO to ROME HVK
	LIER	Senior T/A IO
Insp	STOLT	IC R/T
WO I	BERMANN	Cryptintelligence
Wos II	LIEFERT	} Final T/A stages and cryptintelligence
	MATTING	
	SCHUETT	
	SPECHT	
	THEISS	
Sjts	MAYERHOFER	
	ORTMANN.	